

What is claimed is:

1. A method of implementing a subscriber local number portability migration request from a Local Exchange Carrier originating switch to a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier ported switch comprising the steps of:

connecting a cross-connect switch in a line associated with a subscriber's directory number between the originating switch and a main distribution frame to establish a first active communication channel;

connecting said cross-connect switch in-line between the ported switch and said main distribution frame to establish a second inactive communication channel; and

signaling said cross-connect switch to automatically deactivate said first communication channel and activate said second communication channel thereby routing communications associated with said subscriber's directory number to said ported switch.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein activating said second communication channel comprises sending a predetermined tone along said first active communication channel to trip said cross-connect switch.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein activating said second communication channel

comprises testing said first communication channel to validate the presence of said cross-connect switch prior to sending said predetermined tone.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said second communication channel comprises testing said first communication channel to validate said tripped cross-connect switch after sending said predetermined tone.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein activating said second communication channel comprises sending a mechanized loop testing tracking tone along said first active communication channel to trip said cross-connect switch.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of updating a database to associate said subscriber's directory number with the ported switch.

7. A telephone network comprising:  
a local exchange carrier originating switch;

a competitive local exchange carrier ported switch; and

a cross-connect switch coupled between said local exchange carrier originating switch and a main distribution frame, between said competitive local exchange carrier ported switch and said main

distribution frame, and forming a first active communication channel and a second active communication channel;

said cross-connect switch deactivating said first communication channel and activating said second communication channel in response to a remote activation signal.

8. A network as in claim 7 wherein said cross-connect switch comprises a controller.

9. A network as in claim 7 wherein said cross-connect switch comprises:

an originating dial tone (ODT) port for receiving a first line from said local exchange carrier originating switch associated with a subscriber's directory number;

a ported dial tone (PDT) port for receiving a second line from said competitive local exchange carrier ported switch associated with said subscriber's directory number;

a main distribution frame (MDF) port for connecting said cross-connect switch to a MDF associated with said local exchange carrier originating switch and said competitive local exchange carrier ported switch;

an electronic switch for connecting said ODT port and PDT port to said MDF port; and

a controller in operative communication with said switch, said ODT port, said PDT port, and

said MDF port, said controller receiving a trigger signal and, in response thereto, establishing a communication channel between said PDT port and said MDF port, and closing a communication channel between said ODT port and said MDF port.

10. The cross-connect switch of claim 9 wherein said ODT port, said PDT port, and said MDF port comprise a tip port and a ring port.

11. The cross-connect switch of claim 9 wherein said trigger signal is a mechanized loop testing tracking tone.

12. The cross-connect switch of claim 9 further comprising a first operator indicator and wherein said controller is programmed to activate said first operator indicator when said ODT port is in operative communication with said MDF port.

13. The cross-connect switch of claim 12 further comprising a second operator indicator and wherein said controller is programmed to activate said second operator indicator when said PDT port is in operative communication with said MDF port.

14. A method of porting a subscriber's directory number from a current local service provider to a desired local service provider comprising the steps of:

connecting a switch having a controller in-line in a first communication channel between a current local service provider's originating switch and a main distribution frame;

connecting said switch in-line in a second communication channel between a desired local service provider's porting switch and said main distribution frame;

sending a trigger signal by way of said first communication channel to said programmable switch; and, in response,

activating said second communication channel and de-activating said first communication channel.

15. The method according to claim 14 further comprising:

testing said first communication channel for a first predetermined signal value; and,

activating a first operator indicator when said first predetermined signal value is present.

16. The method according to claim 15 further comprising:

testing said first communication channel for a second predetermined signal value; and,

activating a second operator indicator when said second predetermined signal value is present.

17. The method according to claim 14 wherein sending a trigger signal comprises sending a

Mechanized Loop Testing tracking tone for a predetermined period of time.

18. The method according to claim 17 comprises sending said trigger signal along said first communication channel.

19. The method according to claim 17 comprises sending said trigger signal along said second communication channel.

20. The method according to claim 14 further comprising updating a database to associate said subscriber's directory number with said desired local service provider's porting switch.